



## Indian Health Service

### Presentation of Check from SAMSHA to the California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.

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by

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SAMHSA

It is an honor to be here today to participate with SAMHSA in the presentation of this \$17.1 million grant award check to the California Rural Indian Health Board and their member tribes. While 44 states and 22 Tribes competed nationwide for grant awards, CRIHB is the only Tribal organization awarded a grant under the Access to Recovery Program. Most notable is that the CRIHB proposal achieved one of the highest scores of all the proposals reviewed. This is an admirable accomplishment; one that reflects your dedication and diligence in working towards our shared goal of improving the health and wellness of American Indian and Alaska Native people. We are very proud of all of your accomplishments.

The California American Indian Recovery Program, to be administered by CRIHB, is a coalition of California Tribes, Tribal and Urban Indian health programs, and substance abuse clinical treatment and recovery support service providers. Their mission is to provide every American Indian in California with a substance abuse problem with access to treatment opportunities that will foster recovery. There is currently a treatment gap in California of nearly 70,000 individuals. The CAIR seeks to close this treatment gap by supplementing the services currently available with a new statewide system to increase access to recovery. The CAIR approach upholds Indian Self-Determination principles by providing American Indians in California with treatment opportunities through existing community-based programs.

The Indian Health Service and SAMHSA are continuously seeking opportunities for collaborations between our agencies. Both agencies are dedicated to improving the health and wellness of some of the most vulnerable and underserved Americans; those with a history of overall health disparities and those with crippling mental health and substance abuse problems. Often, unfortunately, these two categories overlap, and opportunities for collaboration become apparent and very important.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you today Mr. Charles Curie. Mr. Curie was nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the Senate in October 2001 as Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. As SAMHSA Administrator, Mr. Curie reports to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson and leads the \$3.2 billion agency responsible for improving the accountability, capacity, and effectiveness of the Nation's substance abuse prevention, addictions treatment, and mental health services. Mr. Curie has over 25 years of professional experience in mental health and substance abuse services field. His core commitment to ensuring that people with addictive and mental disorders have the opportunity for full participation in American society has earned him national recognition and acclaim. It is my pleasure to turn the podium over to him at this time.

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